

Saga Yachts Readies New Performance Cruiser for Spring Launch

Saga 409 To Deliver Speed, Safety, Comfort



ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO, March 9, 2004 ----- Saga Marine announced this week that the new Saga 409 design is on schedule for a late spring launch. The 40-foot passage maker follows in the wake of the Saga 48, introduced in 2003 and named *Cruising World's* Boat of the Year in its class.

Like the Saga 48, the new Saga 409 presents a dramatic silhouette with its raised salon, black windshield, and dual helm, open stern cockpit.

In addition, it carries the signature features of all Saga designs ---

- A plumb bow and aerodynamic hull design for low resistance, maximum water line, and enhanced performance
- The dual headstay of the Variable Geometry Rig™ for easy short-handed cruising and maximum sail plan options
- Stainless steel hand rails and accessories for low “no teak” maintenance
- A mast capable of navigating the bridges of the Intercoastal Waterway.
- Rubbed cherry wood joinery crafted for warmth and elegance.

The new Saga 409 will complement the manufacturer's 35, 43 and 48 foot designs. The 409 designer, Tony Castro from Southampton, England, has incorporated European styling with the safety, speed, and comfort features that Saga is known for.

Chief among the new safety features incorporated in the Saga 409 is the Kevlar® E-glass/vinylester double woven hull laid on a Balteck® aircraft grade balsa core. The new hull composite is twice as impact resistant as epoxy and significantly lighter and stiffer than fiberglass.

“We are very excited to be introducing our new Saga 409, according to the schedule we set for ourselves,” said Saga President Allan Poole. “We are hoping that cruisers looking for a fast, safe, comfortable passagemaker will be intrigued by the time-proven Saga features and European styling incorporated in the 409 design.”

About Saga Marine

Saga Marine, based in St. Catharines, Ontario, builds cruising boats, known for superb sailing characteristics and luxury accommodations. Speed, safety, ventilation, detailed craftsmanship, and low maintenance exteriors are the hallmarks of a Saga design.

The company was founded in 1995 by Allan Poole, a veteran boat builder in the US, UK, and Canada. The Saga 43, designed by Robert Perry was introduced in 1996, followed by the Saga 35. By Spring 2004, Saga will be delivering the 70th hull from the factory. The Saga 43 continues to be the mainstay of the Saga fleet. A third Perry design, the Saga 48, was introduced in 2003 and took *Cruising World* Boat of the Year honors in its class. The Saga 409 is the latest introduction to the Saga line. For more information, visit Saga's web site at www.sagayachts.com.

About Tony Castro

Tony Castro, who is based on the South Coast of Britain, in the heart of sailing country, has been a renowned yacht designer for 25 years, with about 6000 boats launched to date, incorporating not only custom boats, but also 27 production models. After leaving Ron Holland's design team in 1980, Tony's initial design claim to fame was "Justine" -- the first and only ever "one tonner" to win the One Ton Cup with five straight firsts.



He has since used his remarkable feeling and knowledge of yacht design in creating many of the world's best cruising yachts. He works with the best yards in the World such as the Royal Huisman shipyard and Jongert in Holland, as well as Palmer Johnson, Neptunus, C. S. Yachts, Laser and Jeanneau to name a few. Tony's designs have won prestigious Yacht of the Year awards, a Superyacht Design award and his designs have won several World championships. For more information, visit Tony Castro LLC at www.tonycastro.co.uk.

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